

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

compulsory licensing. The focus of the review is on development and promotion of industries rather than on regulation. Presently, hazardous chemicals are in the list of industries requiring compulsory licensing. The Ministries concerned are consulted in the process of review.

(c) The regulatory framework established by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the form of Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC Rules) and subsequent amendments made in October, 1994 and January, 2000 adequately takes care of the requirements of safeguards relating to chemicals.

National Environment Protection Agency

*609. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Environment Protection Agency to protect environment as the Pollution Control Board has failed to protect environment effectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BIFR notice to wind-up IDPL

*610. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Newstime dated 15th March, 2001, captioned, "IDPL gets BIFR wind-up notice";

(b) whether all avenues have been explored to assess whether any one or more units of the Company could be rehabilitated; and

(c) the action proposed to provide employment to workers of IDPL?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) IDPL is a sick company referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. As per the show cause notice issued by the BIFR on 23.02.2001, the BIFR Bench has come to the *prima-facie* conclusion that the company cannot make its net worth positive within a reasonable time after meeting all its financial obligations and that it would be just, fair and in public interest that the company is wound up. BIFR will hear objections^uggestions on 4.6.2001. After failure of the first rehabilitation package approved by the BIFR on 10.2.94, no fully tied up revival scheme could be finalised before 23.2.2001 and placed before the BIFR.

(c) As stated above, the final decision on winding up of IDPL has not been taken and Government is providing non-plan assistance to IDPL for payment of salarie&wages to its employees from October, 1996.

Violation of food laws by foreign importers

*611. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study sponsored by the Ministry and the Department of Food Processing Industries indicated gross violation of several food laws by foreign importers;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and,

(c) what steps the Ministry has contemplated or are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Department of Food Processing Industries entrusted a study to a consumer organization VOICE to ascertain whether imported packaged foods adhere to the provisions of the Indian Laws particularly with reference to the labeling requirements. The study indicated contravention of labeling provisions, and